Department of Energy
Golden Field Office
1617 Cole Boulevard
Golden, Colorado 80401-3305

ERRATA

for the
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR THE PROPOSED CLIPPER WINDPOWER, INC. LOW WIND SPEED TURBINE DEMONSTRATION PROJECT, CARBON COUNTY, WYOMING

Page 15 Paragraph 2, the first sentence is removed and replaced with the following:

"Construction equipment and personnel would access the project site south from Medicine Bow, via the Elk Mountain to Medicine Bow road to a series of existing unpaved private access/service roads located immediately adjacent to and within the Medicine Bow Wind Project (refer to Figure 2.2). Once equipment reaches the existing Medicine Bow Wind Project, traffic would travel on a service road located next to the existing wind turbines. To minimize vehicle traffic at the actual project site, construction employees would park at the PRPA control building parking lot and would be shuttled by other pickup trucks to the actual work site. No other access roads are available, would be constructed, or utilized to access the project area. Since the project requires only the construction/installation of one wind turbine, one meteorological tower, and associated facilities, the construction/installation phase of the Proposed Action would involve a limited amount of equipment and personnel. Typical construction equipment would include a road grader, trackhoe, front-end loader, concrete trucks, two cranes, a flatbed truck, rough-terrain forklift, trailer mounted electric generator, and two or three pickup trucks. Because of the remote location of the project area, not all equipment would be on-site at the same time and would only be brought to the site when required for specific tasks.

Construction and installation operations would begin with survey work that would be completed in approximately 2 days by surveyors with one pickup truck. The service building for the Proposed Action (i.e., trailer) would then be delivered and installed on site in approximately 1 day. Site preparation and excavation would then be conducted. Concrete would be delivered to the site from a small portable concrete batch plant that would be setup for 7 days in a previously disturbed area near the existing Medicine Bow Wind Project. The concrete supplier would immediately remove the batch plant upon completion of the concrete deliveries. The site preparation and excavation activities would be completed within 20 days. The wind turbine, meteorological tower, and associated equipment

would then be installed over a period of approximately 14 days. Nine round-trips would likely be required to transport the major components (e.g., tower, blades, nacelle, hub, etc) to the site. Final site grading and cleanup would then be conducted using available equipment.

Clipper anticipates that construction and installation operations would require a total of 2 to 3 round trips per day by pickup trucks used by supervisors from Medicine Bow to the project site. Construction/installation of the Proposed Action would require approximately 2 months to complete starting in January 2005, with activity levels fluctuating based on the tasks described above."

Page 21 After the last paragraph, insert the following new bulleted paragraphs:

- "To document raptor use of the immediate project area, Clipper would conduct surveys for raptors and other large birds utilizing methods and protocols presented in Thomas et al. (1997) and utilized at the nearby Foote Creek Rim Windpower Project (Johnson et al. 2000). The surveys would utilize observation circles (each with a 0.5-mi radius) that would be monitored during the first 12-month period of operation of the Proposed Action. All surveys would be conducted by qualified and trained biologists and detailed survey methods would be included in a survey protocol document that would be prepared for the project and submitted to DOE, USFWS, and WGFD for review and comment."

- "To document passerine bird use of the immediate project area, Clipper would conduct surveys for passerine and other small birds during the spring of 2005 utilizing methods and protocols utilized at the nearby Foote Creek Rim Windpower Project (Johnson et al. 2000). The surveys would utilize transect line(s) with point count stations established on the transect(s). These surveys would be conducted three times during the breeding season (May 15 though July 31) during the first 12-month period of operation of the Proposed Action. All surveys would be conducted by qualified and trained biologists and detailed survey methods would be included in a survey protocol document that would be prepared for the project and submitted to DOE, USFWS, and WGFD for review and comment."

Page 61 Second paragraph, after second sentence, insert "The phased construction plan described under "page 15" above on this Errata would likely further minimize construction-related impacts to pronghorn by minimizing the level of construction activity on the site at any given time."

Page 64 Second paragraph, second to last sentence ending with "wind turbine" insert the following "(refer to Table 4.1 for detailed information)" after the word "turbine."

Page 64 After the second paragraph, insert the following new table.

Table 4.1 Measured and Estimated Wildlife Mortalities.

		Number of Mortalities per Structure		
Project Area	**Structure Type**	**Raptors**	**Passerine Birds**	**Bats**
Foote Creek Rim Windpower Project[1]	Wind turbines	0.03	1.46	1.34
	Met towers	0.00	8.10	0.00
	Total	0.03	9.56	1.34
Proposed Action[2]	Wind turbine	0.15	7.30	6.70
	Met tower	0.00	8.10	0.00
	Total	0.15	15.40	6.70

Based on average mortalities presented in Young et al. (2003) for a Foote Creek Rim project area that is located within 10 mi of the site of the Proposed Action.

2 Estimates are based on the specifications of the Clipper demonstration wind turbine that has a blade sweep area five times larger than blade sweep area for the wind turbines located at the Foote Creek Rim Windpower Project. Therefore, for the purpose of this analysis mortalities for the Proposed Action are assumed to be 5 times greater than those documented at the Foote Creek Rim Windpower Project. The proposed meteorological tower would be similar in design to meteorological towers located at the Foote Creek Rim Windpower Project. The Proposed Action would include one wind turbine and one meteorological tower.

Page 64 After Table 4.1 insert the following:

"Results of raptor use surveys presented in the BLM (1995) and Johnson et al (2000) for the Foote Creek Rim project area, indicate that raptor use was lowest for areas that were located on top of the rim (i.e., away from the rim) on flat and open terrain (i.e., areas that are similar to the proposed project area)."

Page 64 last paragraph, last sentence starting with "Personnel would . tower" is removed and replaced with the following:

"The frequency of the mortality surveys would be based on the results of seasonal carcass removal survey conducted at the beginning of spring, summer, fall, and winter. The protocol for the carcass removal surveys would follow procedures described in Young et al. (2003). Each mortality survey would involve walking transects established within 325 ft of each tower. All surveys would be conducted by qualified and trained biologists and detailed survey methods would be included in a survey protocol document that would be prepared for the project and submitted to DOE, USFWS, and WGFD for review and comment."

Page 67 Second paragraph, second to last sentence ending with "wind turbines" insert the following "(refer to Table 4.1 for detailed information)" after the word "turbines."

Page 67 After the second paragraph, insert the following new paragraph.

"To document raptor use of the immediate project area, Clipper would conduct surveys for raptors and other large birds utilizing methods and protocols presented in Thomas et al. (1997) and utilized at the nearby Foote Creek Rim Windpower Project (Johnson et al. 2000). The surveys would utilize observation circles (each with a 0.5-mi radius) that would be monitored during the first 12-month period of operation of the Proposed Action. All surveys would be conducted by qualified and trained biologists and detailed survey methods would be included in a survey protocol document that would be prepared for the project and submitted to DOE, USFWS, and WGFD for review and comment."

Page 67 After the first paragraph, insert the following:

"Given the flat topography, lack of topographic features, and the lack of suitable nesting habitats and breeding areas for most raptors in the immediate project area, raptor use of the project area is expected to be less than that found at the Foote Creek Rim Windpower Project area. However, it is reasonable (and even conservative) to use the results of the Foote Creek Rim mortality surveys as the basis for estimating impacts to raptors from the Proposed Action."

Page 67 last paragraph, third sentence starting with "Personnel would .....tower" is removed and replaced with the following:

"The frequency of the mortality surveys would be based on the results of seasonal carcass removal survey conducted at the beginning of spring, summer, fall, and winter. The protocol for the carcass removal surveys would follow procedures described in Young et al. (2003). Each mortality survey would involve walking transects established within 325 ft of each

tower. All surveys would be conducted by qualified and trained biologists and detailed survey methods would be included in a survey protocol document that would be prepared for the project and submitted to DOE, USFWS, and WGFD for review and comment."

Page 68 After the first paragraph, insert the following:

"Migration routes are determined more by the availability of and changes in local food supplies than by any other environmental factor (Welty and Baptista 1988). Therefore, since food supplies for avian species within the project area are limited compared with other areas in the vicinity, the project area avian species would not likely be located within any local migratory corridors for raptors or passerine birds. While specific migratory movement patterns have not been determined for the project area, previous studies in the general area indicate that migratory routes appear to be strongly correlated to year-round avian use (BLM 1995; Johnson et al. 2003; Young et al 2003, Thomas et al. 1997). While some avian species may forage in the project area it is unlikely that they would spend much time in an area that produces limited opportunities for securing food sources (Welty and Baptista 1988). Therefore, impacts to migratory species would be less than significant and are unlikely to result in detrimental impacts to populations of any migratory bird."

Page 71 After the third paragraph, insert the following:

"Given the flat topography, lack of topographic features, and the lack of suitable nesting habitats and breeding areas for most passerine birds in the immediate project area, passerine bird use of the project area is expected to be less than that found at the Foote Creek Rim Windpower Project area. However, it is reasonable (and even conservative) to use the results of the Foote Creek Rim mortality surveys as the basis for estimating impacts to passerine birds from the Proposed Action."

Page 72 Second paragraph, last sentence ending with "wind turbine" insert the following "(refer to Table 4.1 for detailed information)" after the word "turbine."

Page 72 After the second paragraph, insert the following new paragraph.

"To document passerine bird use of the immediate project area, Clipper would conduct surveys for passerine and other small birds during the spring of 2005 utilizing methods and protocols utilized at the nearby Foote Creek Rim Windpower Project (Johnson et al. 2000). The surveys would

utilize transect line(s) with point count stations established on the transect(s). These surveys would be conducted three times during the breeding season (May 15 though July 31) during the first 12-month period of operation of the Proposed Action. All surveys would be conducted by qualified and trained biologists and detailed survey methods would be included in a survey protocol document that would be prepared for the project and submitted to DOE, USFWS, and WGFD for review and comment."

Page 72 last paragraph, third sentence starting with "Personnel would .tower" is removed and is replaced with the following:

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Page 83 After the Steenhof reference, insert the following new reference:

"Thomas, D.M., J.M. Ward, and R. Pickering. 1997. Baseline Avian Studies for the Proposed SeaWest Energy Corporation Wyoming Wind Plant, TRC Mariah Associates, Laramie, Wyoming."

Page 84 Before the Wyle laboratories reference, insert the following new reference:

"Welty, J.C., and L. Baptista. 1988. The Life of Birds, fourth edition. Saunders College Publishing, New York, New York. 581 pp + append."